

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1. Background of the study

A novel is an art in the form of literature. It shares the same qualities as any other work of art. Novel contains the intricacy and the mysteries of human life, the expression which is transferred to the readers of the novel in the form of a fictitious story. A novel contains almost an unlimited amount of subjects and includes every aspect of life. “ A novel is a living thing, all one and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is something of the other parts.” (Kettle, 1976). As Jack Goody (2006) says that the novel is a long fictional prose narrative that came from the foundation of storytelling in oral cultures. This proves that the novel, way back then, came from the stories of real living people and then turned into a form of writing. There is another opinion saying that novel is a fictitious prose narrative with a significant length in which characters and actions represents real life of past or present and are portrayed in a plot with more or less complex (Hawthorn, 1986). A good novel does not simply convey life: it says something about life. A good novel can reveal a pattern in life and also bring a great significance. All good novels are concrete and not abstract, but to describe the original concept of a novel as abstract is not necessarily to condemn either the concept or the novel (kettle, 1976).

According to Goody (2006) novel is a narrative story and it contains a variety of elements. The elements are: Plot, character and characterization, point of view, language, symbol, and theme. In this study, the writer is interested in researching conflict which is an element of plot according to Bonazza, Emil & Sandra (1982). The basic types of conflict in fiction are commonly categorized as person vs person, person vs nature, person vs another character, person vs society, and person vs fate (Richards-Gustafson, 2003). Conflict is also influenced by economic condition, social environment, and psychological condition. We can understand the characteristic of the characters, especially the protagonist, by analyzing the conflict that they face. The writer would like to analyze the external conflicts that occur in a novel because the writer believes that external conflicts can identify the characteristics of certain characters in a novel. External conflict usually reflects to the moral aspect of a certain character as they occur in the behavior of the character when he/she faces the opponent or conflict. The solutions that the characters in the novel come up with can be a perfect lesson for the readers to learn when confronted with the same conflicts in life. The writer decides to analyze Yasunari Kabawata's novel "*Beauty and Sadness*" as the subject of this study because of three main reasons. The first reason is that the novel won the Nobel Prize for literature and therefore it is well known. The second reason is that the novel provides an intriguing character to analyze. And lastly the novel provides a diverse conflicting event between the characters. From the three reasons above, the writer believes that "*Beauty and Sadness*" is the perfect novel to analyze the external conflicts between the various characters.

1.2. Statements of the problem

As mentioned in the background of the study, the writer of this thesis research paper would like to discover the external conflict (man vs man) of the main character, Ueno Otoko, in Yasunari Kabawata's *Beauty and Sadness*. The main problems the writer would like to solve are:

- What are the external conflicts found in Otoko's character as illustrated in the novel?
- What are the causes of the conflicts?
- What are the solutions of the conflicts?

1.3. Objective of the study

The objective of this study is to: (1) find out the main character's conflicts as illustrated in the novel, (2) The causes of the conflicts, (3) the solutions of the conflicts.

1.4. Scope and limitation of the study

The scope and limitation of the study is about the external conflicts that are shown through the main characters in Yasunari Kabawata's famous novel of *Beauty and Sadness*. Conflict is one of the elements of novel that can elevate the characters inside the novel. The writer will focus more on the external conflicts that occur between the main characters, the causes of the conflicts, and the resolution of the conflicts.

1.5. The significance of the study

The writer hopes that this study can give a contribution in the literature world specifically in analyzing the external conflicts of the main characters in Yasunari Kabawata's *Beauty and Sadness*. The writer believes that this study can help the students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya in delving in the world of literature. The writer hopes that this study will be of use as one of the examples of studying conflicts that occurs in a novel.

1.6. Definition Key Terms

To prevent confusion, the writer will explain some definition key terms that will be mentioned in the study. The title of the study is "The External conflicts between the three main characters in Yasunari Kawabata's *Beauty and Sadness*"

- **Novel**

A novel is a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (Hawthorn, J 1987).

- **External Conflict**

External conflict is the struggle between a literary or dramatic character and an outside force such as nature or another character, which drives the dramatic action of the plot. (*dictionary.reference.com/browse/external-conflict*)

- **Beauty and Sadness**

Beauty and Sadness is a Japanese novel by Yasunari Kawabata, first published in 1964 and translated by Howard Hibbett. Beauty and Sadness won the Nobel Prize for literature. (Schneider, J 2010)